

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

PREVIEW SELECTION VOCABULARY

Get to know the following words before you begin reading “Lamb to the Slaughter.”

anxiety (an·zī'ə·tē) *n.*: state of being worried or uneasy; stress.

*Although the news filled her with **anxiety**, she smiled calmly.*

placid (plas'id) *adj.*: calm; tranquil.

*Her **placid** look showed how peaceful she felt.*

luxuriate (lug·zhōor'ē·āt') *v.* (used with *in*): take great pleasure.

*She would **luxuriate** in the feeling of closeness to her husband.*

administered (ad·min'is·tərd) *v.* used as *adj.*: given; applied.

***Administered** with great force, the blow knocked the man over.*

premises (prem'is·iz) *n.*: house or building and its surrounding property.

*Did the police find clues in the house or anywhere else on the **premises**?*

consoling (kən·sōl'in) *v.* used as *adj.*: comforting.

*The officer tried to comfort her, but Mary did not find his words **consoling**.*

hospitality (häs'pi·tal'ə·tē) *n.*: friendly, caring treatment of guests.

*In a show of **hospitality**, Mary invited the police officers for dinner.*

CONTEXT CLUES

When you come across an unfamiliar word, look for clues in the **context**—the words, phrases, and sentences surrounding the word. Context clues may provide a definition, a restatement, an example, a comparison, or a contrast that helps you figure out the meaning of the unfamiliar word. In the examples below, the *italicized* context clues help you figure out the meaning of the **boldface** words.

DEFINITION: Her **instinct**, or *automatic response*, is to run away.

RESTATEMENT: She knows what the **penalty** is and will accept her *punishment*.

EXAMPLE: Her action might bring **relief**—*for example, it would end the anger she felt*.

COMPARISON: Ice cubes **clinking** in a glass *sound like pencils tapping on a table*.

CONTRAST: Although she looks **tranquil**, she *doesn't feel peaceful*.